

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB EEC
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYMENT STILL AT PEAK LEVELS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2780

1. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY REMAINS ON A HIGH PLATEAU, ACCORDING TO THE EC COMMISSION'S MONTHLY REPORT ON PERSONS REGISTERED AS JOBLESS AT PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES. AT THE END OF MARCH THE UNEMPLOYED FIGURE STOOD AT 5,523,000 PERSONS -- A DROP OF 250,000 FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH (PROBABLY FOR SEASONAL REASONS) BUT AN INCREASE OF 200,000 FROM A YEAR EARLIER.

2. SINCE THE STATISTICS ARE NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, THE TWELVE-MONTH COMPARISON IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT. BETWEEN MARCH 1976 AND MARCH 1977 THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED MALES REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED, BUT THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED FEMALES INCREASED BY 200,000.

3. BREAKOUTS BY SEX FOR THE GLOBAL FIGURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED

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(000S OMITTED)
MAR. 1977 MAR 1976

MALE	3,364	3,362
FEMALE	2,159	1,958

TOTAL 5,523 5,320

4. THE REPORT ESTIMATES THAT THE COMMUNITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH 1977 WAS 5.3 PER CENT, COMPARED TO 5.5 PERCENT FOR FEBRUARY 1977 AND 5.1 PER CENT FOR MARCH 1976.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR MARCH 1977 AND 1976 BY COUNTRY ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

	MAR 1977	MAR 1976
BELGIUM	7.1 PERCENT	6.2 PERCENT
DENMARK	6.0	4.8
FRANCE	4.7	4.3
GERMANY	4.2	4.6
HOLLAND	4.3	4.6
IRELAND	10.1	10.0
ITALY	6.6	6.3
LUXEMBOURG	0.5	0.3
UNITED KINGDOM	5.4	5.0

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EUR -9 5.3 5.1

6. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT DEFINITIONS VARY AMONG THE NINE COUNTRIES, THE REPORT CAUTIONS: "THE DEGREE OF STANDARDIZATION (OF DEFINITIONS) IS INSUFFICIENT TO PERMIT RELIABLE (INTER-COUNTRY) COMPARISON EITHER OF ABSOLUTE LEVELS OR OF RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT." MOREOVER, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE CALCULATED EACH MONTH ON AN UNCHANGING BASE--THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE FIGURES FOR 1975, WHICH IS THE LATEST YEAR FOR WHICH FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THE NINE COUNTRIES. HINTON

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